

**City of Aberdeen Council Meeting
September 29, 2014**

Present: Mayor Bennett, Councilwoman Elliott, Councilwoman Landbeck,
and Councilwoman Young

Absent: Councilman Garner

Also Present: Douglas Miller, City Manager
Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning and Community Development
Henry Trabert, Chief of Police
Opiribo Jack, Director of Finance
Monica Correll, City Clerk
Doris Manner, Recording Secretary

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The prayer was led by Pastor Catherine Hooker, New Beginnings Church of God and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Elliott.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to approve minutes of the following meetings:

Council Meeting, July 28, 2014;
Business Meeting/Work Session, August 4, 2014; and
Business Meeting/Work Session, September 8, 2014.

The minutes were approved by a vote of 4 – yes and 1 – absent.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Aberdeen Heritage Trust Beautification Awards: 321 S. Philadelphia Boulevard and 9 North Rogers Street

Mayor Bennett and Ms. Judith Hinch, Aberdeen Heritage Trust, presented awards to William C. Brown Community Funeral Home, 321 South Philadelphia Boulevard, and to Mr. Donald Collier, Sr., 9 North Rogers Street, in appreciation of the beautification of their properties in Aberdeen. Ms. Hinch accepted on behalf of Mr. Collier.

2. United Way of Central Maryland, Cecilia Helmstetter, Assistant Director of Development, Harford County

Ms. Cecilia Helmstetter delivered a presentation entitled, “Changing the Odds for Families and Communities” and explained United Way’s community service initiatives in the Harford

County area. She said that \$75,000 has been designated toward Aberdeen for employment programs.

3. Aberdeen Lions Club Donation to the Aberdeen Police Department

Aberdeen Lions Club representatives donated 26 stuffed toy lions to Chief Trabert for police officers to give to children in crisis.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. Arthur F. Kaff, Harford County Board of Education, Bel Air, MD: Mr. Kaff announced that Harford County Public Schools would be conducting a series of FY2016 Budget forums to gather public input and that he was the contact person for educational concerns in Aberdeen. He congratulated the newly installed Aberdeen Middle School PTSA members and the Aberdeen High School football team for a recent victory.
2. Mr. Michael Hiob, Graceford Drive, Aberdeen: Mr. Hiob stated his concerns that Mayor Bennett had misused a City-owned vehicle and questioned credit card purchases.
3. Mr. Bob Hartman, Paradise Road, Aberdeen: Mr. Hartman asked for the rainy day fund balance, City expenses for Route 22 home demolition not covered by a State grant, the purpose and plans for the Moose Lodge purchase, and for more information on work session proceedings. Mr. Hartman voiced alarm about negative incidents occurring at Festival Park, he felt that the dog park should be at a different location, and questioned why dirt was dumped by City trucks at a Route 22 demolition site handled by the State.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

1. Resolution No. 14-R-09, Aberdeen Police Department Pension Plan, Sixth Amendment (For Introduction and Adoption)

Mayor Bennett introduced Resolution No. 14-R-09, Aberdeen Police Department Pension Plan, Sixth Amendment. Mr. Miller explained that the amendment would allow sworn officers transferring laterally from another police department to buy into the City's plan. Although the buy-in was designed to cover the City's costs, this was not guaranteed. The amendment would also update the pension plan's definition of "spouse" to be compliant with State law.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approved Resolution No. 14-R-09, Aberdeen Police Department Pension Plan, Sixth Amendment.

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 – yes and 1 – absent.

2. Ordinance No. 14-O-13, An Amendment to the 2011 Comprehensive Plan, Hardy Storage, LLC (For Adoption)

Ms. Grover explained that Hardy Storage, LLC requested the City to include the property located on Harford County Tax Map 59, Parcel 16, Parcel A, and known as 249 E. Bel Air Avenue into the Comprehensive Plan, Planning Area 1, Swan Creek for possible future annexation. A public hearing had been held.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to approve Ordinance No. 14-O-13, An Amendment to the 2011 Comprehensive Plan, Hardy Storage, LLC.

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 – yes and 1 – absent.

BUSINESS OF THE CITY:

1. Unfinished Business - None
2. New Business

Mayor Bennett reported that the City has made its Local Government Ethics Law Certification submission and has been found in compliance with the Public Ethics Law by the State Ethics Commission.

3. Business from the Director of Planning and Community
 - a. Preliminary Site Plan for Medline Expansion, 100 Rock Glenn Boulevard

Ms. Grover said that Medline plans to expand their 292,000 sq. ft. distribution/warehouse facility at 100 Rock Glenn Boulevard by approximately 106,000 sq. ft.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the Preliminary Site Plan for Medline Expansion, 100 Rock Glenn Boulevard.

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 – yes and 1 – absent.

4. Business from the Chief of Police

Chief Trabert reminded the motoring public to be careful and alert for student pedestrian traffic. He warned that pedestrian cross walk laws would be enforced.

5. Business from the Director of Finance

Mr. Jack reported that the auditors completed their work after two weeks. He will report on their findings when completed.

6. Business from the City Manager

a. Director of Public Works Appointment

Mr. Miller asked for Council confirmation on the nomination of Mr. Kyle Torster for Director of Public Works. Ms. Catherine Tuck Parrish from Novak Consulting Group performed the nationwide recruiting process.

The nomination was confirmed by a vote of 4 – yes and 1 – absent in favor of Mr. Kyle Torster as Director of Public Works.

b. Bid Award: APG WWTP 13-1, Water Service Van

Mr. Miller explained that the City owns and operates the water/sewer system on Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) and that a water service van is needed. Plaza Ford, Bel Air, MD, was the low bidder.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to award Bid No. APG WWTP 13-1, Water Service Van Purchase to Plaza Ford, Bel Air, Maryland in the amount \$54,083.00 for APG.

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 – yes and 1 – absent.

c. Appropriation, Purchase of the Moose Lodge and Property

Mr. Miller stated that the Moose Lodge accepted the City's offer in the amount of \$435,000 for the assessed value of the land. He asked the Council to appropriate \$435,000 out of the Fund Balance for the purchase.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the appropriation of \$435,000 from the Fund Balance for the purchase of the Moose Lodge property on North Rogers Street.

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 – yes and 1 – absent.

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. Business from the City Council

Councilwoman Landbeck commented that the Mayor and Council are open, transparent and accountable for all their expenses. City residents have benefited from the efforts of the Mayor who has been petitioning, lobbying, and negotiating on behalf of the City. Because of his efforts, highway user revenues have increased from \$34,000 to \$440,000. Councilwoman Young agreed with Councilwoman Landbeck and added that Mayor Bennett has an exhausting schedule.

2. Business from the Mayor

The Mayor stated that the proper procedure to report ethical abuses would be to direct them to the Aberdeen Ethics Commission. He said that his calendar, events, and responsibilities on the business he conducts for the City are always available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Business Meeting/Work Sessions: Monday, October 13, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.
Monday, October 20, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.
Next Council Meeting: Monday, October 27, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Planning Commission Meeting: Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Veterans Day Ceremony, Veterans Memorial Park, November 11, 2014 at 11 a.m.
Aberdeen Christmas Street Saturday, December 6, 2014, Parade at 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Young to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.